From September 2024
(Volume 174)

Cover Picture

The lake at Bhaktivedanta Manor
(Hari Krishnaat Letchmore Heath)

This is possibly out of sequence because Volume 173 is my Arran Blog and although that has been is started, the main contents are still to be added.

As always, a very varied set of photos. We seem to thrive on unusual locations and enjoy visiting previous assorted haunts and seeing them again but with fresh eyes.

Family update: Beau and Mina are back from their holiday and they seem very happy together. She is a lovely warm person and so easy to love.

The Peach is looking for part time work (bars etc) to save for her travels..great experience that will prove invaluable in later life. She has grown up and is so lovely too.

The Larn is so conscientious and works so hard. Her new job seem to appreciate her talents and we feel she is destined to make a name for herself.

Lynn is a great support in all I am doing and we seem to slot round one another which is mostly great but sometimes we drive one another mad..Guess it's inevitable as we are together so much.

Seems a long while back when I commented on mum and how she is faring and Lynn and I miss our late parents a lot. Time doesn't lessen the feeling of loss and Tammy is coping well without Ben but frequently is so sad without him. We all miss him so much. He was a very solid, special man.

Lastly, but not leastly, DP had some hassles with the final Shindig festival so hope he is able to resolve them. He is a popular guy and never seems to be in one place for long. I think our Arran Adventure will be a great bonding time and hope we both get as much out of it as we hope. It's like turning the clock back…

On a UK front. Weather has been very unsettled and one day can be baking with us relaxing in the sun followed by torrential rain and the heating is required the following day. The new government seem intent on making fiscal decisions to put us back on a financially balanced footing but as an outsider looking in we seem to see so many better ways of doing things. Give less foreign aid and quit thinking we are a major world player. Get real and accept that our days as a superpower are over. Spend money nearer home ..on pensioners, on the NHS..get our house in order here and then maybe look overseas. We need to trade with all other countries and I personally can't see us sending any respected ambassadors to gain inroads into foreign markets. Too many fat cats at the top totally unable to see what is going on under their noses. Our legal system needs an overhaul and respect must return to police, teachers etc. Currently, they are ridiculed and seem unable to carry out their duties effectively and we must consider backing them up with sterner sentences for offenders and strict discipline in schools. It was managed in our generation but the word 'respect' seems taboo now.

New York had a zero tolerance policy and from what I remember, it worked. So easy to say, what about the innocent that were caught in this trap, but every controversial change will have its opponents. It is so easy to whine on about the so obvious lack of respect seen all around us and any measures to change this will obviously be met with cries of opposition but maybe we have swung too far in listening to the cries of' human right'. The rights of the ordinary citizen must be foremost.

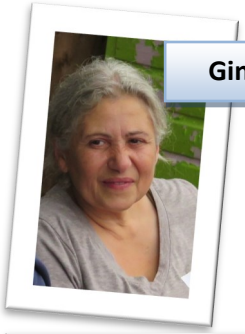
I started this rant by saying " we seem to see so many better ways of doing things". To us it is so obvious that what is called a democracy really has its own agenda and we are suckered into going along with it. AI and false information is now recognized as a very potent means of control. Do we actually have any idea of what is really behind decisions 'for our own good' Many sensible people gain their information from many sources but common sense is the best dictator of how we should lead or lives.. Sorry, got a bit heavy, but that's the idea of my preface. I write what I feel and anyone can disagree …(or not read it...your choice).. Sept 21st 2024

Gina has an allotment too, close to mine and hers backs onto her house. She made a meal on her plot a few years agon and it was great. This prompted Gina and myself to organise another one but as the seasons were changing we decided to do it with only a couple of weeks notice

The weather was kind to us and it went so well we formed a Whatsapp Group to keep in touch

The word quickly spread and soon 20 eager allotmenteers were keen to join us. Kiri, Gina's neighbour was a bbq king so (as I was recovering from a hospital procedure0 my role was strictly organising and I was only allowed to cook my signature garlic bread and Lyonnaise potatoes

Photo History

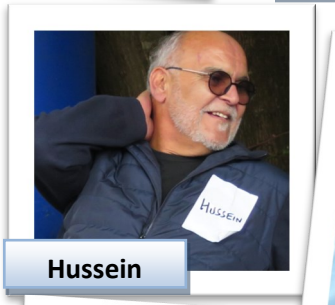

Gina

Harrison

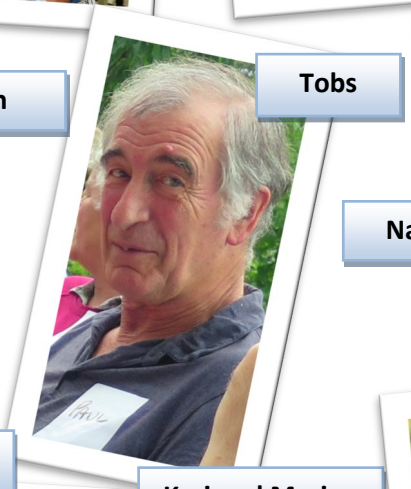
Kerry

Muz

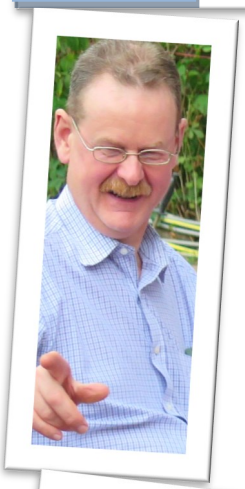
Alex


Hussein

Ken


Tobs

Narin



Jacob

Kyri and Marina

Stephen

Joseph

Kyri

Shirley

Ralph

Lui

Wendy

Photo History

"Well a dog can hope !"

Bishop's Avenue is a total builders area. Lines of white vans all the way along the road and many plots empty with high security fencing waiting to be developed

This large detached house is in the throes of being developed where its large plot is being maximised and the original house is now a shell being supported

Mush of the original property has been bought by oligarchs from other countries who seem to let them fall down and nothing is done with the vacant sites

At Kenwood a festival was being set up…'How The Light Gets In'. It seems well organised and we chatted to the marshals

We met Viv and Walter and Norma there and enjoyed a sunny walk to Highgate through the Heath paths.

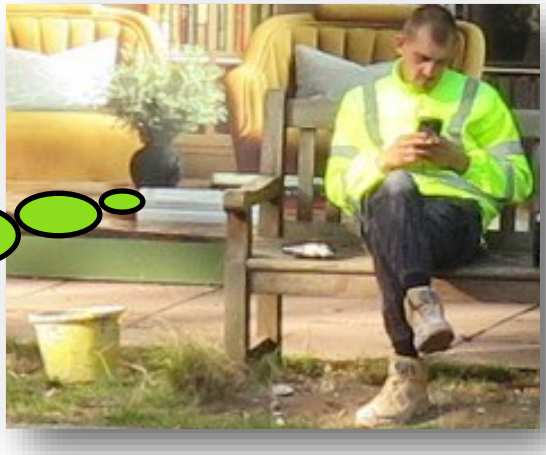
You may look at this picture and wonder why these two builders are sitting in someone's lounge with their bucket on her green carpet???

Ok...I'll tell you on the next page if you haven't already guessed.

Photo History

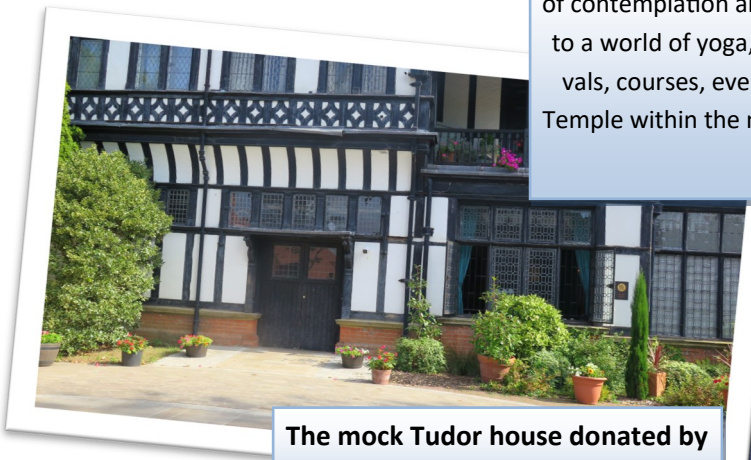
These guys are sitting on a pavement bench in front of this hoarding showing an artists impression of the future homes being built here.

It just struck me as being surreal..



Tobs and Wendy arranged a day trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor (Hare Krishna at Letchmore Heath) with Loretta and Mariette. We had a quick coffee at Elstree/Aldenham private airfield on route

Bhaktivedanta Manor is a spiritual sanctuary, a temple, a monastery and a place of contemplation and exploration for the spiritually inquisitive. It offers a retreat to a world of yoga, meditation, sacred music and dance, vegetarian food, festivals, courses, events and worship. All this is set alongside a gorgeous Krishna Temple within the mock-Tudor building. This unique centre is open to the public free of charge, all year round.

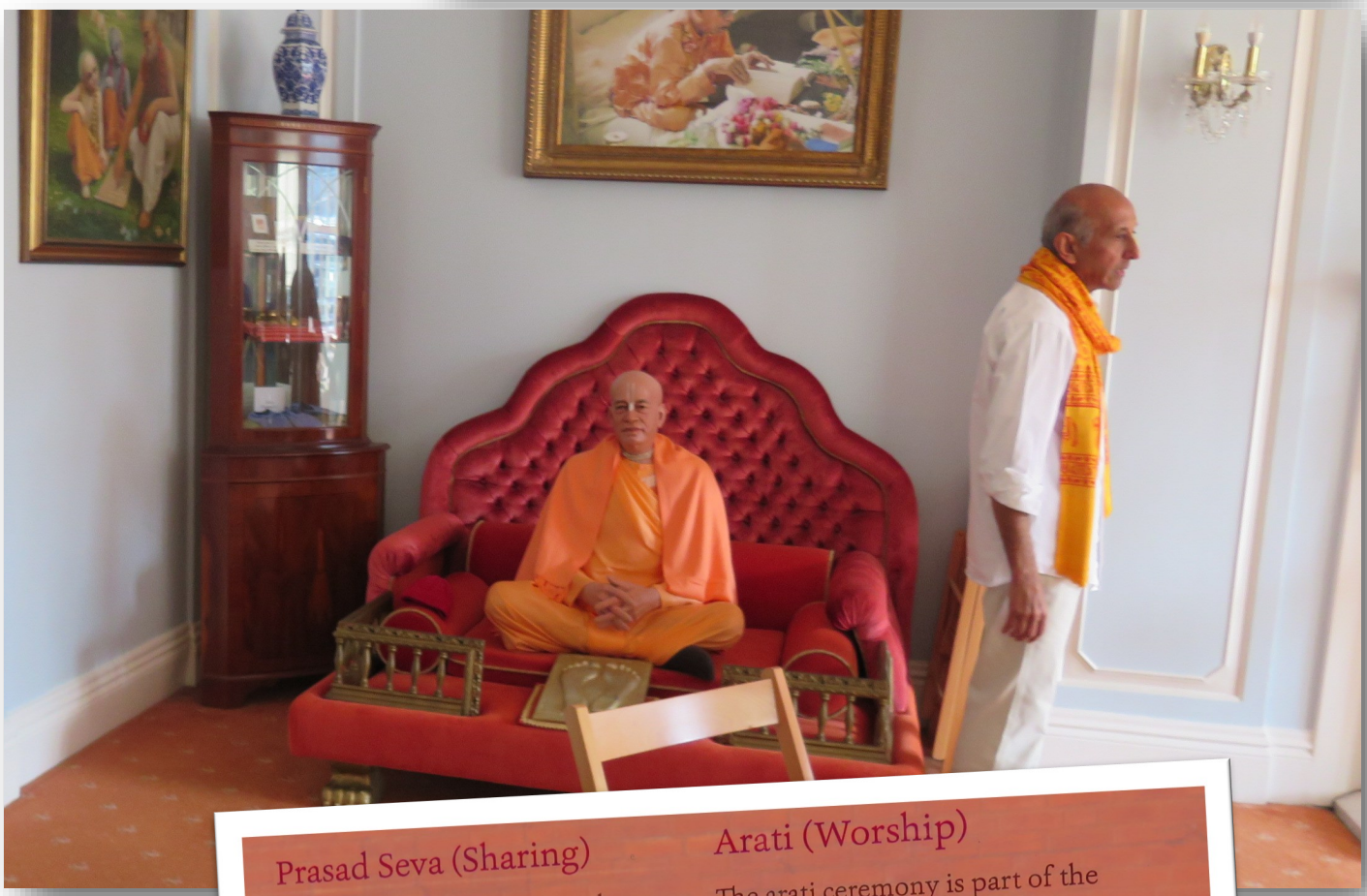


The mock Tudor house donated by George Harrison

Some of the teachings that are used by the followers

In the extensive grounds

Effigies of the original teachers and (standing) is Nilash who showed us around and was very eloquent and knowledgable



Prasad Seva (Sharing)

One of the most important and pleasing forms of giving is annadana, the sharing of prasad with others. Daily prasad can be sponsored.

Bhoga (Offerings)

Every day six offerings of food (bhoga offerings) are made to the Lord. You can sponsor any of these six offerings on a day of your choice.

Nitya Seva (Annual)

Annual seva on your behalf. On the day of your choice, the offerings, puja and worship will be performed on your behalf.

Arati (Worship)

The arati ceremony is part of the public worship of the Deities. You can sponsor any of the seven aratis on a day of your choice.

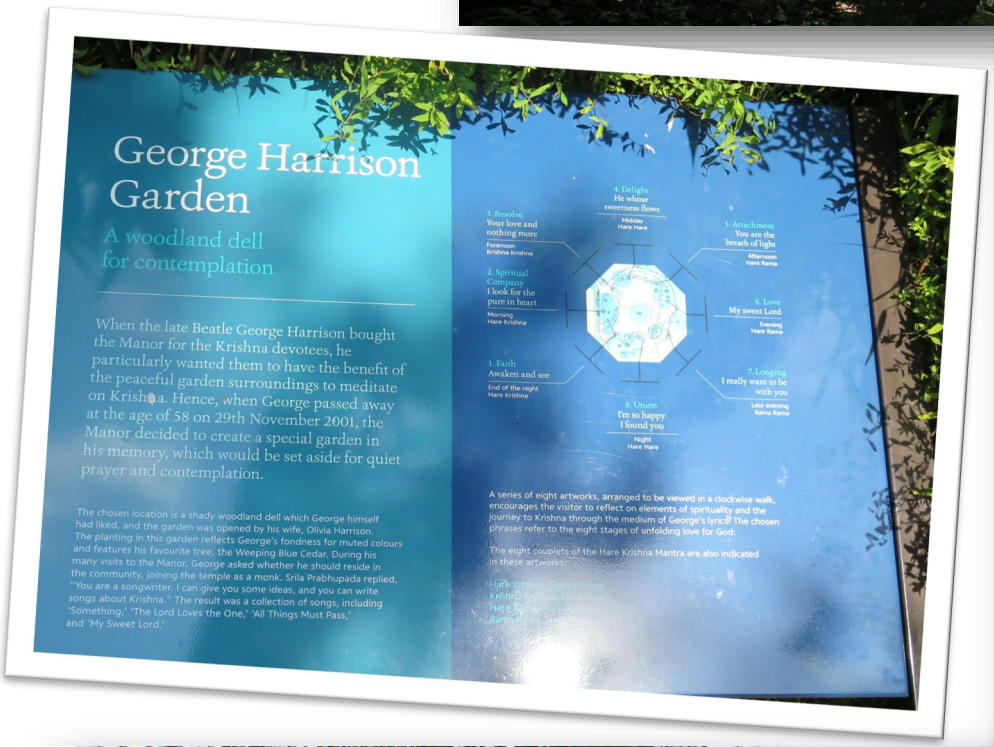
Godan (Cows)

Contribute to the continued care of the cows and oxen, of which there are over 60 residing on the Farm, providing milk and work on the land.

Legacy

Your support can continue after your departure. By leaving a gift to Bhaktivedanta Manor in your Will, your offerings will carry on

Photo History



George Harrison Garden

A woodland dell for contemplation

When the late Beatle George Harrison bought the Manor for the Krishna devotees, he particularly wanted them to have the benefit of the peaceful garden surroundings to meditate on Krishna. Hence, when George passed away at the age of 58 on 29th November 2001, the Manor decided to create a special garden in his memory, which would be set aside for quiet prayer and contemplation.

The chosen location is a shady woodland dell which George himself had liked, and the garden was opened by his wife, Olivia Harrison. The planting in this garden reflects George's fondness for muted colours and features his favourite tree, the Weeping Blue Cedar. During his many visits to the Manor, George asked whether he should reside in the community, joining the temple as a monk. Srila Prabhupada replied, "You are a songwriter. I can give you some ideas, and you can write songs about Krishna." The result was a collection of songs, including 'Something,' 'The Lord Loves the One,' 'All Things Must Pass,' and 'My Sweet Lord.'

1. Faith
Awaken and see
End of the night
Hare Krishna

2. Spiritual Company
I look for the pure in heart
Morning
Hare Krishna

3. Resolve
Your love and nothing more
Forenoon
Krishna Krishna

4. Delight
He whose sweetness flows
Midday
Hare Hare

5. Attachment
You are the breath of light
Afternoon
Hare Rama

6. Love
My sweet Lord
Evening
Hare Rama

7. Longing
I really want to be with you
Late evening
Rama Rama

8. Union
I'm so happy I found you
Night
Hare Hare

A series of eight artworks, arranged to be viewed in a clockwise walk, encourages the visitor to reflect on elements of spirituality and the journey to Krishna through the medium of George's lyrics. The chosen phrases refer to the eight stages of unfolding love for God:

The eight couplets of the Hare Krishna Mantra are also indicated in these artworks:

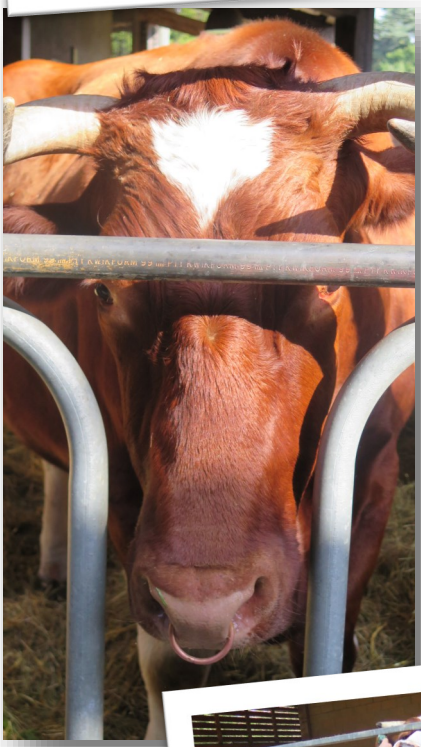
Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare
Hare Rama, Hare Rama
Rama Rama, Hare Hare

We enjoyed the free excellent vegetarian meal (Prasad)

Arati and darshan are performed at certain times when the curtains are opened for the devotees to pay their respects (and we noticed that donations of food and money are made at that time) . The gods are dressed daily in different clothes and apparently there are over 300 different outfits including night attire-it being an honour to dress them(

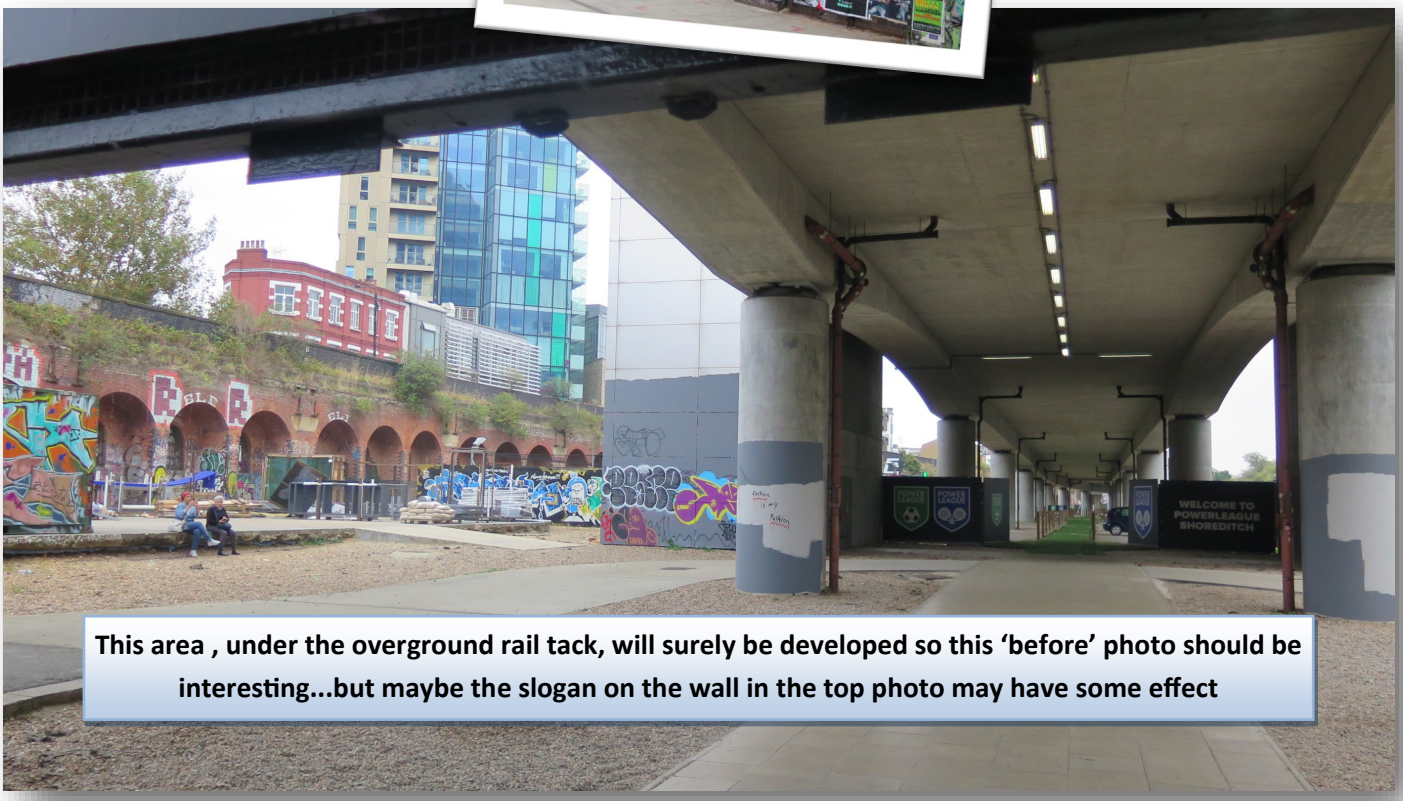
The peaceful lake in the 60 acres of grounds

The herd of cows have an excellent life. Hand–milked and all fed on healthy home-grown food, they are even have vets on standby. (The BBC once called it the Cow Hilton)



A quick drink at Letchmore Heath on the way back

Always a favourite with Lynn and myself is our pilgrimage to Brick Lane (Bangla Town) . First stop refuelling at the Bagel Bakery...eating in the 'so-called' park



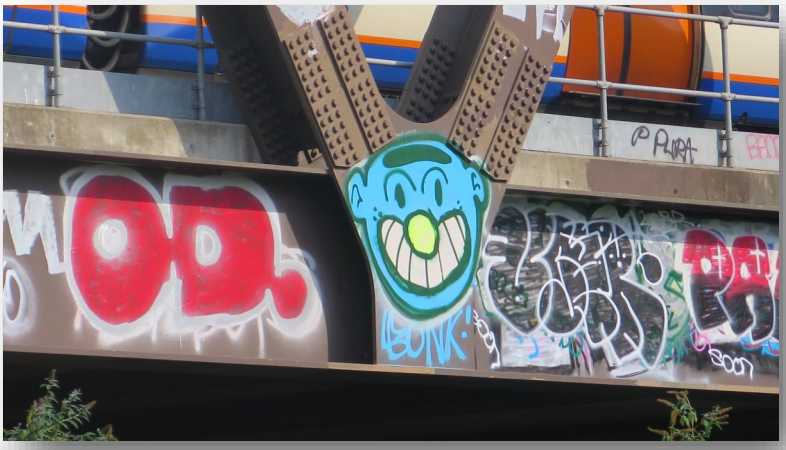
This area , under the overground rail tack, will surely be developed so this 'before' photo should be interesting...but maybe the slogan on the wall in the top photo may have some effect

Uber bagel delivery driver

Almost at the front of the constant queue

...and seated at the top table for that famous banquet...the smile says it all

LOVE
rolson
@MIKECOMP
BLACK PEOPLE IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE
PETER FRYER
SOCIAL
HOMEBOD
THEO PARIS


BONK

DIRTY
GUN

161

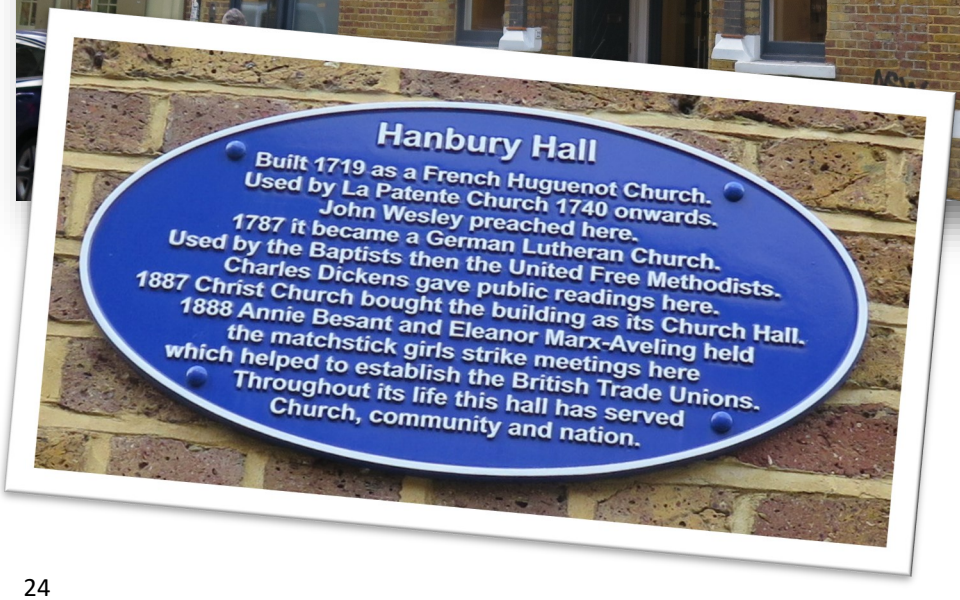
LOVE
WINS IF
you try
HARDER

LOVE
WINS IF
you try
HARDER

SMO
SPOOK
SPOOK

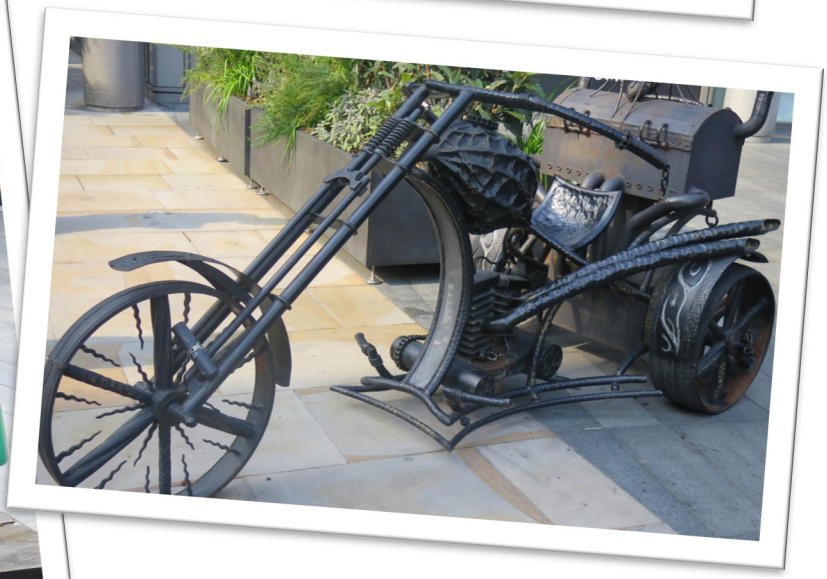
FOR
23
FUCK

I love the modern skyline in Bishopsgate seen from Brick Lane. The contrast is great



The history of this part of London is really interesting and attracts so many visitors nowadays but we remember when it was still a very deprived neighbourhood and Petticoat Lane and Middlesex Street were thriving markets

The street art is fun and imaginative



Street food modern-style around Spitalfields

He always travels with his musical companion